IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning with line 11 as follows:

A subscriber loop interface circuit apparatus includes control circuitry for controlling the subscriber loop DC feed. The SLIC also includes a plurality of programmable registers storing values defining a first characteristic curve and a second characteristic curve. The control circuitry switches from a normal mode DC feed following a first characteristic curve to a modified mode DC feed following a second characteristic curve when the subscriber loop <u>metallic</u> voltage meets or falls below a first threshold voltage. The control circuitry switches from the modified mode to the normal mode when the ~~subscriber loop~~ <u>metallic</u> voltage meets or exceeds a second threshold voltage.